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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 001360

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STATE FOR S/S-O FOR POTUS BRIEFING BOOK, AF/FO AND AF/S
DELISI, NSC FOR AFRICA SR DIR JENDAYI FRAZER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/04/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [SF](#) [ZI](#) [MDC](#)

SUBJECT: MDC LEADER TSVANGIRAI SAYS THAT NO CURRENT
MEDIATION EFFORTS, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA'S HAS PRODUCED
MORE THAN TALKS ABOUT TALKS; ASKS THAT US PRESS SOUTH
AFRICA FOR CONCRETE RESULTS WITHIN A SHORT TIMEFRAME

REF: HARARE 1351

Classified By: JOSEPH G. SULLIVAN FOR REASONS 1.5B/D

1. (U) MDC Delegations

(C) MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai outlined for the Ambassador his party's plans for upcoming meetings and various mediation efforts underway. Tsvangirai said that the MDC would be sending a small team to Pretoria next week headed by spokesman Paul Themba Nyati to manage the press. In addition, a political delegation headed by Deputy SecGen Gift Chamanikire and including David Coltart, Sekai Holland and Moses Ndlovu would travel to Pretoria and Maputo. He reiterated the request that they be received by someone on the delegation. When the Ambassador suggested that this would be difficult, he indicated that even a meeting with a junior member of the delegation would be helpful. Tsvangirai apologized for the MDC having stated publicly its intent to meet with the US delegation and recognized that this made things more difficult. He also wanted to be sure that last Saturday's New York Times description of his reaction to US public statements had not been misunderstood. Tsvangirai said he welcomed US public statements and had only sought to avoid conveying any impression that the MDC was orchestrating US pressure.

2.(C) No Real Talks underway

(C) Tsvangirai sought to set the record straight about what mediation efforts are underway and to underline that no genuine substantive dialogue is ongoing between the political parties, notwithstanding suggestions by President Mbeki to the contrary. He was most worried that the US not be deflected from pressing for genuine dialogue by "idle reassurances" from the South Africans that meaningful dialogue is ongoing. Tsvangirai said that, while periodic conversations take place between the South African High Commission and the MDC, no specific proposals have been put on the table and no ZANU-PF agreement to dialogue has been conveyed to the MDC. He said that neither have there been substantive telephone discussions which could pass for negotiations nor any South African emissaries with the exception of a South African Deputy Director of Intelligence who visited and met with the MDC over two months ago. Tsvangirai expressed concern that the effect of repeated

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South African statements that dialogue is ongoing and that the solution must come from inside Zimbabwe has been to give cover to Mugabe's stalling and unwillingness or inability to confront ZANU-PF's own succession crisis.

3.(C) Several Church efforts

(C) Tsvangirai said that he had discouraged further efforts by Father Fidelis to broker a meeting between Mugabe and him because "this would not be meaningful after the man has thrown me in jail." With a bit of prodding, Tsvangirai allowed that he would not reject such a summit meeting if it was accompanied by a substantive ZANU-PF commitment to serious negotiations. Tsvangirai said that the Zimbabwean ecumenical Church delegation had held a second round of separate talks with the MDC and a ZANU delegation including Party Chairman John Nkomo and Information Secretary Nathan Shamuyarira. To try to move these mediation efforts to substance, the MDC had proposed that the agenda for dialogue between MDC and ZANU be the same as that agreed between the parties in May 2002 before Mugabe scuttled those talks.

4.(C) ZANU-PF and CIO Contacts with MDC

Tsvangirai said that Justice Minister Chinamasa was

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maintaining periodic talks with MDC SecGen Welshman Ncube

over ways of the two sides agreeing on a revised constitution. Tsvangirai said it was unclear with what status Chinamasa was carrying out these talks and the MDC would in any case insist that basic agreements on a return to the rule of law and legitimacy and a transitional arrangement would have to accompany a constitutional revision process. Tsvangirai also said that the CIO had recently renewed

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contact with the party, but that it was not possible to determine with what status or purpose.

15. (C) What MDC Expects Out of Dialogue

(C) Tsvangirai said that any serious dialogue had to address several key issues: the immediate return to a rule of law, including dismantlement of youth militia; a discussion of serious issues, including the nature and length of a transitional arrangement; commitment to relatively early elections under revised free and fair procedures; and, most critically, Mugabe's exit. Tsvangirai said that the MDC was debating how long a transition period should be and Tsvangirai stated his preference for not more than a year.

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But he thought that the length of a transition should be dictated by the extent of commitment to serious reforms during a transitional period.

16. (C) A Retrospective on Mass Action

(C) While underlining the success of the stayaway, Tsvangirai recognized the downsides of not having produced

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the mass demonstrations promised. He appeared reconciled to a more patient path and more training and organization of cadres in non-violence and other key areas.

7.(C) His request of the US

(c) Tsvangirai asked that we press the South Africans for concrete results from their effort to foster dialogue, including a fixed timetable of three or so months and a designated result; i.e. Mugabe's exit and a transitional government.

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